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A STUDY ON BANANA CULTIVATORS IN THOOTHUKUDI DISTRICT

Ms.M. Eswari
Research Scholar
Reg.No: 20122101032003
Kamaraj College, Thoothukudi-628 003.
Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Tirunelveli – 12, Tamil Nadu, India.

Dr.T Jackuline Brindha,
Associate professor of Economics
Kamaraj College, Thoothukudi-628 003
Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Tirunelveli – 12, Tamil Nadu, India.

ABSTRACT

Banana is the most widely consumed fruit, and is an attractive perennial fruit crop for small farmers. This is due to its high economic gains throughout the year compared to other crops like rice and wheat. Apart from the imputed value of family effort, the other effects like cost of production, on the whole income etc., are not favorable to the small farmers. Their agricultural lands depend on torrential rains. The greater parts of the lands are rain-fed areas. If the monsoon fails, then the farmers will be in hitch. In these circumstances, the government should shore up the agriculturists by granting financial assistance. Different strategies should be adopted to reduce the losses taking place out of high humid content of the banana. The banana is also fatally affected by some ailment. Therefore, an enduring research station may be elevated to protect the banana from various syndromes. By examining various research results as one; the government generates awareness among the farmers concerning banana cultivation and may push more farmers to cultivate this precious food, which is greatly vital in our habitual diet system. Among 29 districts of Tamil Nadu, Thoothukudi district ranks first in exporting banana. So Thoothukudi district is selected for the present study

KEYWORDS: Banana, Farmers, Government

INTRODUCTION:

In India Banana ranks second next to Mango in area and production, occupying an area of about 83 lakh hectares with an annual production of 46.26 lakh tons. The important banana growing states are Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Karnataka, West Bengal, Bihar and Gujarat. However, the present production of banana in the country is highly inadequate. It is estimated that, the present annual per capita consumption of banana in India is 50 kg per head which is very low compared with other progressive banana growing countries such as Jamaica, Congo, Equator, Kenya and Uganda. Thus there is an immense scope of increasing banana production in the country. Banana is a nutritious, palatable and easily digested fruit, rich in carbohydrates, minerals such as potassium, magnesium, sodium and phosphorus; and is even richer in calorific value than potato. Being relatively cheaper than other fruits, and owing to its availability almost throughout the year, banana should be regarded as a subsidiary

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food and forms a part of common man's diet. Apart from fresh fruit, banana can be consumed as processed in various forms such as chips, powder. Flakes, etc.

Objectives of the Study:

1. To study the income level of the banana cultivators
2. To study their level of satisfaction

Statement of the Problem:

Banana is one among the important plantation crops cultivated in various parts of the country. It requires adequate water with good soil also affected with environmental factors. The cultivation of Banana increased to a certain extend due to the benefits, utility, earnings, market potentialities etc. The production and marketing of banana helped a lot to promote the economic conditions of the farming community as well as the village economy. Various organizations/ institutions are also supporting and helping in various ways and means in the production and marketing.

The Level of Satisfaction and Productivity of the Cultivators:

An attempt was made to understand the level of satisfaction of the Cultivators the "chi-square test" and Analysis of variance techniques were applied. The test is carried out in the succeeding pages.

Level of Satisfaction of Banana Cultivators:

An attempt to understand the level of satisfaction of banana Cultivators is made. To study the level of satisfaction, Cultivators are asked to give their opinion towards 10 statements that signify the level of satisfaction.

To measure the levels of satisfaction scaling technique is applied for the opinion namely strongly Agree, Agree, No opinion, Disagree, Strongly disagree. The scores +2, +1, 0, -1, -2 are given respectively for 300 respondents from the total score calculated, arithmetic mean and standard deviation.

High level satisfaction = Arithmetic mean + standard deviation

Low level satisfaction = Arithmetic mean - standard deviation

Medium level satisfaction = Score varying between the high level satisfaction and low level satisfaction

Arithmetic mean is 12 mean of 300 respondent scores is calculated. The standard deviation is found to be 4 High level satisfaction scores 12plus 4 equal to 16. Low level satisfaction 12 minus 4 equal to 8 scores from 8 to 16 are medium level satisfied banana cultivators.

Level Satisfaction of Banana Cultivators

Level of satisfaction	Number of Banana Cultivators	Percentage
Low level	50	17
Medium Level	88	29
High Level	162	54
Total	300	100

Source: Computed data.

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From the table it is clear that out of 300 banana cultivators 54 percent of the cultivators fall under the high level category of satisfaction. 29 percent of the cultivators fall under medium level category satisfaction. 17 percent of the cultivators fall under low level satisfaction.

Income of the Banana Cultivators Income is an important factor in determining the level of satisfaction.

Income of the Banana Cultivators

Income	Number of Cultivators	Percentage
Upto Rs.20000	32	10
Rs.20000-30000	33	11
Rs.30000-40000	57	19
Rs.40000-50000	65	22
Rs.50000 above	113	38
Total	300	100

Source: Primary data

Table reveals the fact that 38 percent of the cultivators earn an income above Rs.50000. 22 Percent of the cultivators earn an income of Rs.40000 to Rs.50000. 19 percent of the cultivators earn an income of Rs.30000 to Rs.40000. 11 percent of the cultivators earn an income of Rs.20000 to Rs.30000 and 10 percent of the cultivators earn an income up to Rs.20000. As to find out whether there is any relationship between income and the level of satisfaction a two way tables have been framed,

Income of Banana Cultivators and Their Level of Satisfaction

Income of the Cultivators	Level of Satisfaction			Total
	Low	Medium	High	
Below 37500	43(34)	35(28)	48(38)	125
Above 37500	32(19)	55(31)	87(50)	175
Total	75	90	135	300

Source: Computed Data

Table reveals that out of 125 banana cultivators' family income below 37500. 34 Percent of them come under low level satisfaction. 28 Percent are under medium level and 38 Percent falls under high level category. Family income of cultivators above Rs 37500. 19 Percent of cultivators are under low level category. 31 Percent of cultivators are under medium level and 50 percent of cultivators fall under high level category.

In order to find out whether there is any relationship between the income of banana cultivators and the level of satisfaction. Chi-square test has been applied. Table shows the computation of chi-square test. To verify whether there is any relationship between income of the banana cultivators and the level of satisfaction, chi-square test has been applied.

The chi-square test is a useful method of comparing experimentally obtained data with those expected theoretically. The following formula has been used to compute chi-square test.

Chi-square = $\sum$ (o-E) / E

Where,

O = Observed frequency
E = Expected frequency
D = Degree of freedom

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D.F = (R-1) (C-1)

R = Row

C = Column

$E = \frac{Row\ total \times Column\ total}{Grand\ total}$

If the calculated value is greater than the table value of a particular confidence level, say 5 percent level, it could be concluded that the level of altitude is dependent upon the variable when chi-square is completed. It shows the computation of chi-square test.

Income of Banana Cultivators and the Level of Satisfaction

Calculated value	Table Value	Degrees of freedom	Result
2.83	5.991	2	Accepted

The table indicates that the calculated chi-square value is less than the table value at 5 percent level. Hence it could be inferred that relationship between the income of cultivators and the level of satisfaction is not significant.

Findings of the Study:

The attempt to study the relationship between the income of the banana cultivators and the level of satisfaction reveals the fact that the income does not influence the level of satisfaction.

Conclusion:

Banana production was found high in India. India is the leading country in banana production and utilizing huge land for cultivating banana, but in productivity the country pulled into fourth place. The country may adopt innovative methods in order to improve productivity of in producing banana. The Government should concentrate in the states where production and productivity of banana were found lower. Major variation was found in productivity of banana from state to state reasons for the variation may be found and rectified in order to increase productivity of banana and which will lead to give more income to banana cultivators in the country. Similarly, wide variation was found in both production and productivity of banana in different districts in Tamil Nadu. Steps can be taken in order to increase productivity of banana in the districts where low productivity was found. So an attempt is made in this study to know the level of satisfaction of the banana cultivators with their income.

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